

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 030825Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1889

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12081

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR,ET,US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT

REF: STATE 293484

1. WE ARE PROCEEDING TO TRY AND IMPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONS  
REFTEL. WILL INFORM. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, I WILL NOT SEEK  
SPECIAL APPOINTMENT WITH KIFLE, BUT WILL PLAN ON RAISING  
MATTER WITH HIM NEXT TIME I HAVE OCCASION TO DO SO.

2. RE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF PCV WITHDRAWAL  
DECISION, I HAVE HAD OCCASION BEFORE (E.G. ADDIS 10770)  
TO RECORD MY JUDGMENT THAT EPMG WILL VERY PROBABLY  
INTERPRET WITHDRAWAL AS SIGN OF WEAKENING USG SUPPORT.  
STATE 290706 INTER ALIA EMPHASIZES OUR DESIRE FOR  
IMPROVED RELATIONS. I AM NOT SURE WE CAN HAVE IT BOTH  
WAYS UNLESS REASONS WE OFFER FOR PC WITHDRAWAL ARE  
SUFFICIENTLY PERSUASIVE TO STAND ON THEIR OWN MERITS.  
SUBSTANCE OF FORMAL NOTE CONTAINED PARA 5 STATE 14807  
WHICH STILL SPEAKS OF JOB VIABILITY AND GENERAL  
SECURITY , EVEN THOUGH AUGMENTED BY STRONGER ORAL  
LANGUAGE, DOES NOT IN MY JUDGMENT PROVIDE SUCH A  
DEGREE OF PERSUASIVENESS.

3. EPMG ON OTHER HAND MAY NOT MAKE CONNECTION BETWEEN  
THE TWO MATTERS, ALTHOUGH I WOULD NOT COUNT ON IT,  
GIVEN OFTEN BYZANTINE TURNS OF ETHIOPIAN MIND.

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REASONS GIVEN US BY ETHIOPIANS THUS FAR FOR REQUESTING

WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION ON SURFACE APPEAR TO HAVE  
LITTLE TO DO WITH ISSUES SUCH AS PC WITHDRAWAL. BUT  
IF THERE ARE THOSE IN PMAC WHO THINK WE HAD SOME  
ULTERIOR MOTIVE IN NOMINATING AMBASSADOR GODLEY, AS  
SUGGESTED IN RECENT "AFRIQUE-SIE" ARTICLE (PARIS  
35470) (WHICH SOME ELEMENTS HERE ARE PERFECTLY CAPABLE  
OF BELIEVING), THEY MAY USE PC DECISION AS CASE IN  
POINT WHICH, AS MEKBIB PUT IT, WOULD THEN PROVIDE  
"AMMUNITION FOR THOSE ELEMENTS WHO WANT TO CAUSE  
TROUBLE FOR US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS."

4. DIVINING THE ETHIOPIAN MIND IS A DIFFICULT THING  
TO DO. HOWEVER, I DOUBT THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF PC  
WITHDRAWAL IS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A FAVORABLE  
PMAC DECISION ON GODLEY APPOINTMENT. WHETHER IT  
WOULD BE UNHELPFUL IS LESS CLEAR, BUT I BELIEVE THERE  
WOULD BE SOME RISK OF MISINTERPRETATION I VOLVED.  
TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

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